

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

As an American citizen and resident of New Mexico who wants to be clearly and unbiastly informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life and those of my community, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of unbiased, informative television programming.

Local public affairs programming is virtually non-existent--constituting less than one half of 1% of all local programming. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest; the FCC must define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming at a time when the majority of viewers are tuned in. At least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day is a minimum.

A healthy, well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

As Chairman of the FCC which has the power to direct such basics of broadcasters in the public interest of the American public, I expect nothing less of you.

Sincerely,  
Anne Kanapilly  
New Mexico

Sincerely,

Anne Kanapilly  
2160 Don andres Road, SW  
Albuquerque, NM 871054473